

## **Adding New Colours to the Belarusian Fall Season Tints**

BrSTU is pleased to open our doors to new international students from Nigeria, a dignified country rich in traditions and culture. As an International University BrSTU is willing to respect their national celebrations, raise awareness of Nigerian History.

At our University autumn is a season of Academic year start, where September is for main course start, while October is for the beginning of Pre-University Faculty courses. Nigerian students initiated holding of the event dedicated to Nigerian Independence Day. So, they added one more occasion for celebration and observance at our University. Thus, October 1, 2012 marked the beginning of the Russian language courses, Nigerian Independence Day and Black History Month.



Turning to historical facts, Black History Month runs throughout the month of October. It is held every year to commemorate the history of Black communities and celebrate the enormous contributions of African people throughout history to humanity. October is also a period of tolerance in African culture.

Through the wide range of scientific and cultural events held at BrSTU, the Nigerian students have given the university community the opportunity to get in touch with the history of African people, allowed everyone interested in it to get involved in celebrating.

On October 1 BrSTU students and staff gathered on the campus, in the café “Zodchie”, to mark the 52nd anniversary of Nigeria’s independence. Within two hours they learnt a lot about Nigeria’s history and culture as well as its contemporary representatives and their activities.



The participants volunteering were students from Nigeria. As said by its organizers, “they volunteered as patriots”. The staff of Pre-University Faculty supported Nigerian initiative. The Russian language teachers Ksenia Aleksandrovna Kachko, Olga Aleksandrovna Budnik and Valentina Alekseevna Kalita provided them with assistance in preparations and presentations.

Needless to say, the sense of patriotism was everywhere in the air: from the green and white flag on the stage and the abundance of national colours in the clothes to the national anthem that marked the beginning and the end of the event and the delicious traditional Nigerian food served in after the show.

Among the major messages that the Nigerians tried their best to get to the guests were that current Nigeria has nothing to do with popular beliefs that people there live in constant poverty and the country is very backwards.

The event featured lots of entertainment including drama and dance performances, poetry, rap and Russian language song singing, traditional fashion models and Nigeria-in-brief presentation.

By the end of the concert nobody doubted Nigeria was a source of pride to its citizens, represented by our students.

Nobody among the guests was left indifferent. There was hardly anybody able to resist moving to their music, clapping and joining in singing.



The students were saying “It’s a Great Day”. By the end of the event everybody had been confident of it and shared their opinion.

The event brought students and guests together, broke all the barriers and superstitions.

The Nigerian students had brought new wave in BrSTU's atmosphere, showed themselves to be talented, gifted, energetic, aspiring to make a difference and mean to make it.



Our Wish for the Nigerian students:

May your country be prosperous, dignified and independent!

*Olga Bogol*  
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